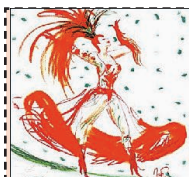


Aruba PM to open Masters
of Excellence.. pg 3



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnaval

FPNC and Happiness Foundation
collaborate for fundraising pg 8

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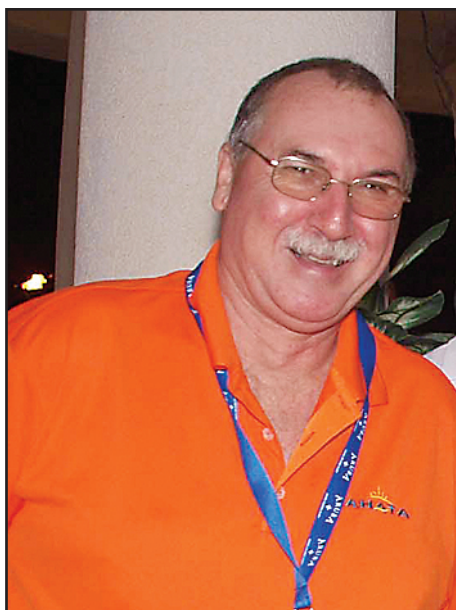
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino in Oranjestad, Aruba

See coverage on page 9

AHATA reports strong support for new Aruba Tourism Authority at Caribbean Marketplace

Earlier this week AHATA President and CEO James Hepple attended the prestigious Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Marketplace in Montego Bay, Jamaica where he met with more than 50 of Aruba's key travel trade partners from around the world. Marketplace is generally accepted as the leading venue for meeting existing partners and new sources of business especially from North America and Europe. The show attracted more than 1,300 delegates in total and 120 buyer companies.

During the two days of intensive meetings Mr. Hepple, together with ATA management, informed Aruba's partners of the new plans for the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) which will shortly go into effect. The partners were uniformly excited and pleased by the new developments and expressed their strong support for this new initiative. Many indicated that they thought this would make Aruba even more competitive and looked forward to working even more closely



Jim Hepple

with the new ATA.

AHATA strongly supports the creation of the new Aruba Tourism Authority and is looking forward to its implementation in the very near future. "It is very clear that Aruba is heading in the right direction with this bold, new initiative" Hepple said after returning to Aruba. "This initiative has AHATA's full support and it is exciting to see how well it has been received

by our travel industry partners."

AHATA spent much of 2010 negotiating with the Minister of Tourism to put the new ATA in place and fully supports the Minister in his efforts to pass the enabling legislation.

Aruba was well represented at the event with six hotels having individual booths and others being represented through their corporate sales representatives. De Palm Tours was also present.

AHATA worked jointly with the Aruba Tourism Authority who was represented by Mario Arends, Manager Advertising and Branding and Adwina Arends, Manager Industry Partnership Relations for North America.

The trade partners were generally positive about the first months of 2011 with many indicating overall growth of 10% - 15% in room nights compared to the same time last year.

Venezuela's Chavez may end party leadership

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez suggested yesterday that he was too busy to continue being head of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), the country's main leftist force.

Chavez was ratified just last week as head of the PSUV, a group that formed when several leftist political groups merged in 2007.

"I am president of the republic, I am head of state, head of government, head of the army... it's only an idea, I'll leave it up to you to debate the issue," Chavez said at a meeting with party leaders.

"In the meantime I will go on to be a party foot soldier." The firebrand leftist leader

said "those of us who are in positions of local and national power should not be leading the party, and I should set the example."

At the party event, Chavez also reiterated that he would run for a third consecutive term in the 2012 presidential election.

"If I have life and health, I am certain that we are going to win... the 2012 presidential elections and that battle has already begun," Chavez said.

Chavez, 56, was elected president in 1998, and re-elected twice for six-year terms under Venezuela's 2000 constitution. The constitution was later amended to allow unlimited presidential reelection.



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Ministry of Finance,
Communication, Utilities and Energy
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the recent introduction of the Ordinance regarding the reparation allowance (Landsverordening reparatietoeslag) and given the fact that the application of aforementioned ordinance is not well known nor clear, I hereby notify you as follows: The declaration regarding the "reparatietoeslag" could also be filed at the employer after January 31, 2011. In case the declaration will be filed on a later date (after January 31, 2011) the employee in the private sector will receive the "reparatietoeslag" as of the month that the declaration was filed. Furthermore, regarding the requirement of being registered at the Aruba Civil Registry (Censo) it is not mandatory to provide a proof of registration in order to apply for the "reparatietoeslag."

Yours truly,
Minister of Finance,
Communication, Utilities
and Energy
Ing. M. E. de Meza

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Fecha: 25 di januari 2011

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Manifestacion Cultural

Ora: 8:00PM – 10:00PM

Fecha: 25 di januari 2011

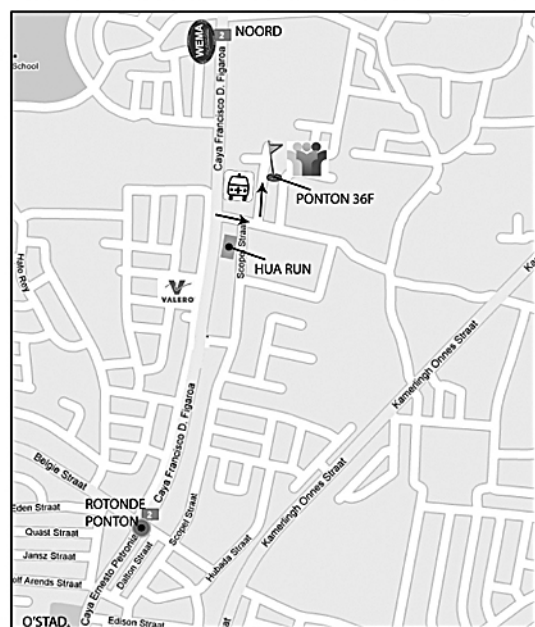
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Alviana Arends, Mundo Infantil and Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, with a beautiful project to help the most vulnerable children and family in Aruba to have a meal everyday.

Children Queens Mundo Infantil /TOB Kids with beautiful social project!



This year the well known program Mundo Infantil presented by Tanchi Esme and Tio George are celebrating 10 successful years, this year of celebration starts with a beautiful social project, where their Childrens Queen Alviana Arends will become the spokesperson and voice of this great campaign that will have the name "Let's give a hand to our neighbour", together with Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad.

Although we do not realize, there are many families in very difficult situation and are not able to provide a meal every day. For that reason, on Saturday February 5th 2011, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, Alviana Arends and Mundo Infantil wants to invite all the people of Aruba to pass by the main offices of Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad situated in Ponton 36F from 8 am-3 pm to fill in a standing order of minimum Afl.25 monthly for a period of one year, in order to

assure a meal for the most vulnerable families.

Mrs. Claudie Wegdam from Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad was the guest honor of the childrens program "Mundo Infantil" and explained about the work they are doing in the Foundation to help the most needed families with food and other things they may need like clothing and much more.

Mrs. Wegdam also explained that this monthly Afl. 25, will guarantee that families receive their meals daily, for this reason we call on the community of Aruba, to pass by to the offices of Fundacion pa nos comunidad on February 5th and fill the standing order to help our most vulnerable people. On this day FPNC will also host a Mega Sale where there will be good quality items at special prices. Unfortunately their warehouse was damaged due to the rain. FPNC has as priority to sell these items so that they will

not continue to be damaged in the warehouse. The money received of the Mega Sales will be used to buy food for those in need.

There will be a Jump from 10-2 pm for kids from Party Animals, all parents that comes with their children will receive a beautiful gift from Alviana Arends and FPNC.

We reach out to everyone to come together on Saturday February 5TH at FPNC from 8-3 pm, so that we can support our families that are in great need, come and take your picture with Alviana, greet Tanchi Esme & Tio George and most important give your contribution to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad!

For more information please contact FPNC at 5880002 or email info@fpncaruba.com.

Picture shows Mrs. Claudie Wegdam from FPNC together with Alviana, Tanchi Esme and Tio George.

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman to open the Masters of Excellence Tour

on January 27 at the Hyatt Regency Aruba featuring Dr. John Maxwell

The Prime Minister Mike Eman of Aruba has graciously accepted the invitation to open the Masters of Excellence Inaugural Event on January 27, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Aruba.

His Excellency will be addressing the audience and introducing world-renowned leadership expert and bestselling author Dr. John C. Maxwell beginning at 8:30 a.m. Open to the public, this semi-annual event brings urgent leadership and personal development messages LIVE to the Aruban community with master thought and world leaders.

"Aruba is a small nation that has produced great leaders. Our history as a nation gives us a lot to be proud of. Leadership is inspired from within and also by example and education of other great leaders. As a young island nation we have to remain eager to learn and practice leadership skills in



order for us to leap forward into the next decade with confidence." - Prime Minister Mike Eman

"The heart of the Masters of Excellence is to support the vision of the Aruban people by offering live events with world-renowned thought leaders. We are honored that the Prime Minister has accepted our invitation to open the event that serves his community vision." - Rudy Poell, Managing Director The Masters of Excellence

Thousands protest Dutch university budget cuts

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) -- Thousands of university students protested in The Hague yesterday against government budget cuts that would see them cough up an extra 3,000 euros in class fees for every year of prolonged study.

Police said 11,000 people, including students and lecturers, took part in the protest in a public park near the city centre, but organisers put the number at more than 20,000.

In a bid to cut spending and reverse a growing public deficit, the government has said it wants to save 370 million euros (\$501 million) every year from 2012 by making slow learners contribute 3,000 euros to their annual tuition fees, normally 1,700 per year.

This would apply to students who require more than four years to finish a three-year bachelor's degree and more than two years for a one-year Masters degree, education department spokesman Job Slok said.

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Creative Workshop with Carnival Flare at Scol di Arte

Last year's "Biahe Creativo" (Creative Workshop) at the Scol di Arte was a resounding success, and the intention is to offer it this year again. Scol di Arte (School of the Arts) is preparing to offer our children and young people a pleasant and sane carnival ambience.

The "Biahe Creativo," (Creative Workshop) is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 5th of February from noon to 3 p.m. in the afternoon at the Scol di Arte on the Pastoor Hendrikstraat 103 in San Nicolaas. This activity is especially for children and youth of San Nicolaas and surroundings, between the ages of 6 and

17. The venue is the Scol di Arte on the Pastoor Hendrikstraat 103 in San Nicolaas. The primary objective of this program is to stimulate creativity in our children and youth and to help them discover and develop their talents. In this workshop special attention will be given to the creative aspects of carnival.

The people of Aruba are true carnival lovers while many of our tourists come especially to enjoy carnival together with us. For this reason it is prudent to begin teaching our children and young people the art of carnival from an early age. We must begin

working on a new generation of 'young professionals.'

If we are to guarantee continuation of our carnival, we must pass along the experience and knowledge of our professionals in the realm of our carnival to today's youth.

UNOCA considers carnival an important, relevant and integral part of Aruba's culture. Hence, the reason for joining forces with Scol di Arte and different volunteers to offer our children and youth the opportunity to experience this Carnaval Creativo workshop.

In this workshop our children will get a spark of the different aspects of carnival. For



example, they will learn about the headpieces, the different ways to make a headpiece.

They will also get to make their own headpiece. They will learn how to make masks, make works of art out of T-shirts; learn about calypso and much more.

There will be different workshops that they could attend. Each workshop will have

a limited amount of seating to ensure proper attention to all participants. It is important to call as soon as possible to register. The traditional fee of Afls.5 per person will cover all material, a drink and snack.

For more information and registration, call Scol di Arte, Sonia Giromus-Goeloe at 584-9168, or contact UNOCA, Margriet Lee-Tromp at 583-5681.

8 Candidates to compete for the title of Noord Children's Carnaval Queen



DJs Ruen and Melvin Garcia hosted a program on January 18 which centered on the drawing of numbers for the Noord Children's Carnaval Queen candidates. Where instructed to design dresses and costumes in this year's theme, which is "Fruit Fantasy."

The selected candidates are:

- 1) Aliyah Jones,
 - 2) Jamil-Ann Vieira,
 - 3) Ismarys Arends,
 - 4) Amanda Wijshijer,
 - 5) Selina Everon,
 - 6) Kimberly Tromp.
 - 7) Lieshandra Farro, and
 - 8) Roshendra Figaroa.
- The final pageant and election will take place February 4,

2011 at 7 p.m. in the Noord Community Center. Carnaval lovers, especially those from that neighborhood, are invited to come and cheer for their favorite candidate and admire the beautiful and fantastically fruit themed dresses designed by the mothers of the candidates.

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

Main Events 2011

SAT. JAN 22 6:30 P.M.	Aruba's Children and Youth Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2011 Place : Joe Laveist Sportpark
SUN. JAN 23 6 - 10 P.M.	Sign-up happening Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2011 Place : Joe Laveist Sportpark
MON, JAN 24 6:30 P.M.	Tumberito 2011 Place: Aruba entertainment Center
TUE, JAN 25	Dia di Betico
FRI. JAN 28	Carnaval Happy Hour Place: pending



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Jerry Staring successfully defends his thesis to receive his Masters Degree



Jerry and family



Jerry and exam commission

ORANJESTAD — Friday, January 14, Aruban Jerry Staring defends his thesis “A Fragmentized Union Bonded by a Common Goal-An analysis of the Mental Health in Aruba and the Collaborating Forces within Mental Health care,” at the University of Aruba in Oranjestad. Examiners were C.L. Millard and drs. A.R.O. Ringeling.

After successfully defending his thesis Mr. Staring received his Masters Degree in Social Work & Development. He is pictured here with proud parents and family members who shared his triumph.

Congratulations to Mr. Staring on his achievement from the University of Aruba and THE MORNING NEWS.



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Grand Cherokee receives Urban Wheels recognition Now available at Ultimate Automobiles

Chrysler Group LLC was presented with the Urban Truck of the Year Award for the all-new 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee at the 15th Annual Urban Wheel Awards show held at the Motor City Casino's Soundboard Theater in Detroit on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011.

“Jeep invented the premium sport-utility vehicle segment with the introduction of the Grand Cherokee nearly two decades ago,” Mike Manley, President and CEO – Jeep Brand, said.

“For 2011, we have delivered a premium SUV that no one else can offer. We're proud of the vehicle and of all the employees who inject it with true American craftsmanship



Mike Manley, President and CEO – Jeep Brand, arrived in style to accept the Urban Wheels award for Jeep Grand Cherokee



when they build it here in Detroit.

“The all-new Jeep Grand Cherokee is truly a testament to the enduring strength of the Jeep brand and to the inspiration and promise of Chrysler Group going forward.”

The Urban Wheel Awards were created by the Emerging Diversity Education Fund and Decisive Media to recognize excellence in the automotive industry. Vehicles receiving awards were selected by a panel of 15 auto journalists based on criteria which took into account styling and practicability.

The Urban Wheels Truck of the Year award is only one of the many prizes that Jeep Grand Cherokee 2011 has won. Others are:

* Consumers Digest “Best

Buy”

* Popular Mechanics Automotive Excellence Award for Off-Road Ability

* Texas Auto Writers Association “SUV of Texas”

* Texas Auto Writers As-

sociation “Full-size SUV of Texas”

* Ruedas ESPN “Best SUV”

* Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Top Safety Pick

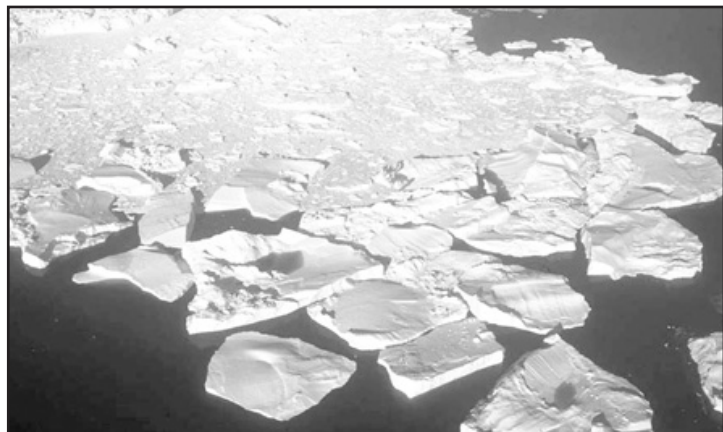
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Sci-Tech

Record melt from Greenland icesheet in 2010



PARIS (AFP) – Greenland's icesheet, feared as a major driver of rising sea levels, shed a record amount of melted snow and ice in 2010, scientists reported Friday, a day after the UN said last year was the warmest on record.

The 2010 runoff was more than twice the average annual loss in Greenland over the previous three decades, surpassing a record set in 2007, said the study, published in the US-based journal Environmental Research Letters.

Ice melt has now topped this benchmark every year since 1996, according to the paper, derived from long-term satellite and observational data.

Were it to melt entirely, Greenland's icesheet would drive up ocean levels by some seven metres (23 feet), drowning coastal cities around the world.

No credible projections today include a doomsday scenario for the coming centuries. But recent research, including the new study, suggest that Greenland will contribute more to rising seas

than predicted only a few years ago.

Based on computer models, Tedesco estimated that runoff in 2010 was 530 gigatonnes, or billions of tonnes, compared to an average of 274 gigatonnes for the period 1958-2009, and 285 gigatonnes for 1979-2009.

"The process is far from being linear, and it is not possible to simply draw a line" into the future, said lead researcher Marco Tedesco, who heads the Cryosphere Processes Laboratory at the City College of New York.

But over the last 30 years "there has been an increase in runoff," he said in an email exchange.

Researchers have thrown up different figures for how much, and how fast, Greenland is shedding its icy mantle, which is up to three kilometres (1.7 miles) thick in places.

They concur, though, that climate change is largely to blame: temperatures in the Arctic region have risen at two to three times the global average over the last 40 years.

China earmarks \$303 bn for safe water: report

BEIJING (AFP) – China plans to invest \$303 billion in water infrastructure projects over the next five years that would give millions of rural residents access to safe drinking water, state media reported.

Severe flooding and droughts across the country last year destroyed crops and drove up food prices, pushing inflation to its highest level in more than two years, prompting the investment.

Beijing will spend more than 20 billion yuan (\$3 billion) in 2011 alone to "push forward construction of key projects", a water resources ministry official was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency late Thursday.

The projects include repair-

ing ageing reservoirs and unsafe embankments and building other infrastructure to provide 60 million people with safe drinking water, Zhou Xuewen, in charge of planning, was quoted as saying.

By the end of 2011, 77 percent of the country's rural residents will have access to safe drinking water, the report said.

State media reported last month that China planned to invest \$30 billion on water conservation projects in 2011 to reduce the impact of the weather on grain production.

The investment -- up 10 percent on the previous year -- will seek to improve irrigation and protect against natural disasters, the China Daily

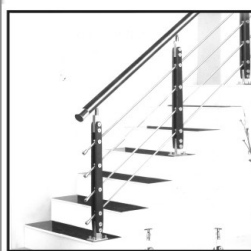
said, citing water resources minister Chen Lei.

Concerned about food security and the threat of social instability from rising costs, Beijing is ramping up investment in water-related projects after spending \$100 billion over the past five years.

A leading agriculture expert last year warned that climate change could trigger a 10 percent drop in China's grain harvest over the next 20 years.

Environmental campaign group Greenpeace has also predicted that China's food supply would be insufficient by 2030 and its overall food production could fall by 23 percent by 2050.

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World 'running out of Internet addresses'

SYDNEY (AFP) – The world will run out of Internet addresses "within weeks", according to one of the founding fathers of the web, a report said Friday.

Vint Cerf, who helped create the web by connecting computers using Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, said it was his "fault" that the 4.3 billion addresses created were running out, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"I thought it was an experiment and I thought that 4.3 billion would be enough to do an experiment," Cerf, who is Google's vice president and "Chief Internet Evangelist", was quoted as saying in an interview.

"Who the hell knew how much address space we needed?"

In 1977, Cerf created the web protocol IPv4, which connects computers globally, as part of an experiment while working with the US Department of Defense. He said he never expected his experiment "wouldn't end".

"It doesn't mean the network stops, it just means you can't

build it very well," Cerf said.

IP addresses are the unique sequence of numbers assigned to each computer, website or other internet-connected devices. They are not the same as website domain names.

The overwhelming number of devices now accessing the internet means the addresses are running out fast.

To resolve the crisis, an updated protocol for the Internet, IPv6, currently being planned by the industry, will create trillions of addresses.

As Google vice president Cerf, who was in Australia to address a conference, said he thought the new chief executive of the California-based giant, Larry Page, was ready to lead the company into the future.

In a surprise move, Google announced on Thursday that co-founder Page would replace Eric Schmidt as chief executive in April.

Schmidt, 55, a former chief executive of Novell, will remain with Google as

executive chairman, focusing on deals, partnerships, customers and government outreach, Google said.

He will also act as an adviser to Page, 37, who served as CEO previously, from 1998 to 2001.

Cerf said Schmidt had been chief executive for 10 years -- "a nice round number" -- and Page was ready to lead the company into the future.

"Larry and Sergey are 10 years older than they were when they thoughtfully hired Eric to be the CEO... so everybody's growing up," Cerf said.

Google has grown over the past decade from a start-up battling other Internet search engines into a technology giant with nearly 25,000 employees and annual revenue of nearly \$30 billion.

The company meanwhile reported its fourth-quarter net profit increased to \$2.54 billion from \$1.97 billion a year ago, while revenue rose 26 percent to \$8.44 billion.

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Health & Living

US woman speaks after rare voicebox transplant

WASHINGTON (AFP) – A US woman was reunited this week with doctors who gave her a new larynx and restored her ability to speak after a rare voicebox transplant surgery, only the second ever successfully performed.

Brenda Jensen, 52, a life-long diabetes sufferer, lost her voice after she was hospitalized in 1998 for kidney failure. Under sedation, she repeatedly ripped out her ventilation tube, causing permanent damage to her larynx. Afterward, she endured teasing and social isolation as she tried to use a device that generated mechanical speech when she pressed it to her throat. The noise it made turned heads and made her uncomfortable, she said.

But an operation in October by an international team of surgeons at University of California Davis changed that.

Lead surgeon Gregory Farwell said the difficult surgery, which the team planned for two years, required doctors to knit together the larynx and all its nerves and muscles that help with breathing, swallowing and talking. "By far it was the most complex thing the team has ever done," Farwell said. "She thought long and hard about the surgery. It is not without risk."

This sort of transplant operation is so rare because it requires patients to take anti-rejection drugs for life, and the pills often weaken the immune system and put them at higher risk for cancer and infections.

For most people, repairing a non-life-threatening condition is not worth such risks. But Jensen was already taking the anti-rejection drugs because she had undergone a kidney and pancreas transplant in 2006, eliminating her need for dialysis and insulin treatments.

"I'm working so hard to use my vocal chords and train my muscles to swallow. I'll probably never sing in a choir or anything, but it's exciting to talk normally, and I can't wait to eat and drink and swim again!"

Her raspy voice does not sound like the donor, a California woman who died in an accident, because a person's voice is forged not by the vocal cords but by the sound as it moves through the mouth, tongue and lips, doctors said.



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Bedbugs resistant to pesticide, study finds

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Bedbugs have terrorized homeowners and tourists around the world, but researchers say their genetic analysis of the beasts may lead to better ways to kill them off. Entomologists at Ohio State University found genes that appear to be pesticide-resistant, according to their findings.

No one has escaped the infestation, including luxury ho-

tels, costing billions of dollars annually in extermination efforts by businesses and homeowners.

The six-legged nocturnal creatures feed on blood. They don't transmit diseases but people who are bitten often suffer red, itchy welts. They can hide in box springs, closets, shoes and luggage, which allows them to travel, according to the National Pest Management As-

sociation. The researchers called their work "the first study to elucidate the genetic makeup of the insect and to obtain fundamental molecular knowledge regarding potential defense pathways and genes that may be involved in metabolic resistance to commonly used pesticides."

They analyzed both laboratory-reared bedbugs susceptible to insecticides and



pesticide-exposed bedbugs collected from an apartment in Ohio state's capital city of Columbus.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varela Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

FPNC and Happiness Foundation collaborate for fundraising

Claudie Wegdan of the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC) and Annette Parris of the Happiness Foundation welcomed media at the FPNC headquarters in Ponton on Tuesday, January 18 to announce upcoming fundraising events by the two community not-for-profit organizations.

FPNC will host on Saturday, February 5, a MEGA warehouse sale at their headquarters at Ponton 36F, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Furniture, kitchen supplies, toys and a vast selection of clothing for men, women and children will be offered supplement funds for their food bank. The same day, Alviana Arends invites all the parents with their children to come to fill out a standing order form to give one child per month the change to put food on the table of the less fortunate. There are a lot of activities, surprises, a dancing show, Dino jump and the day will have a fun, street fair ambience.

For Sunday, March 27, FPNC has organized a simultaneous Radio/Telethon with MAGIC FM y ATV at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach. It will be a fundraising marathon broadcast live from 8am till 8pm with a constant excitement, raffle drawings for great prizes and visiting local celebrities. Stay tuned for more detailed information released in the near future.

Fundraising events will culminate on Saturday, April 21, with the fourth edition of the "Punta pa Punta" (Point to Point) Let's walk for the Community, walkathon organized by The Happiness Foundation. This annual walkathon will traverse the entire length of Aruba, beginning at Aruba furthest eastern point, Baby Beach, and finishing at the California Light-house.

The Aruban community is conscious that to maintain a healthy body, lower stress and built-up their self-esteem, it is necessary to exercise. The coming of a new year is a time to meet your objective to include regular exercise and athletic participation in your routine. A fine way to meet this goal is to add participating in the "Punta pa Punta" walkathon on your schedule.

In the past, "Punta pa Punta" walkathon generated funds for Wilhelmina



Kankerfonds and "Kinderhuis Imeldahof". This year the organization chose the entire community of Aruba as their beneficiary by donating the proceeds to FPNC. Happiness Foundation Representative Annette explained, "Seeing the wonderful job that "Fundacion pa nos Comunidad" (FPNC) has done in 2010, Happiness Foundation has chosen to work together with FPNC in organizing the walkathon "Punta pa Punta" 2011, to collect funds to help families in need. "Punta pa Punta" walkathon promotes teamwork, so teams and groups are particularly encouraged to participate. Two people can register to qualify as a team."

The walkathon will begin at 6:00 PM and includes 7 water and refreshment stops along the way; at the finish there will be prizes for best male, female and young walkers and special prizes for teams first to complete the

walk and most animated teams. They expect, from past events, to finish at approximately 10:00 PM.

Organizes advise potential participants to start training now for this lengthy walk; all should have a training program to be well prepared. Inscription will start right after the Betico Croes Half Marathon. Inscribe at IDEFRE offices in Certified Mega mall and receive a T-Shirt with this year's logo.

"Feel pride and joy as you walk for the Aruban Community," suggests Claudie. "Walk 'Punta pa Punta' 2011 for self-esteem and the satisfaction of achieving your fitness goals while doing something good for the less fortunate. We invite all to come and walk for a good cause and share the experience of this unique event."

For more information please contact FPNC at #5880002 or via info@fpn-caruba.com.



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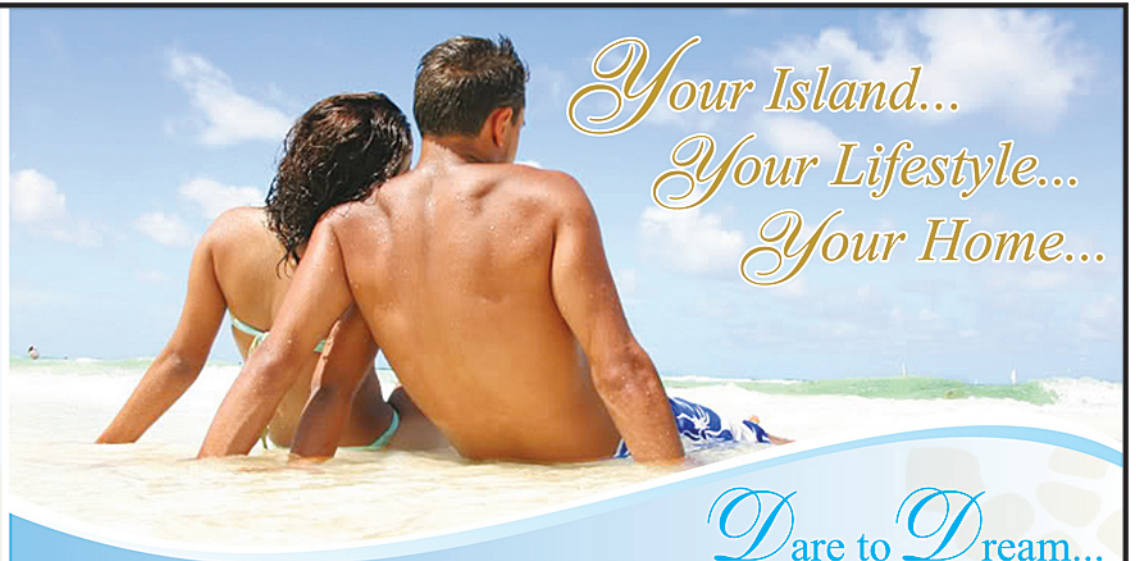
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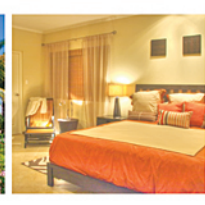
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Aruba is hosting Caribbean Cable Covention and Show January 25-27



The Caribbean Cable and Telecommunication Association, CCTA, announced the 2011 annual meeting, known popularly as the "Caribbean Show," will be held on Aruba from January 25 to 27. The meeting will be at the Aruba Renaissance Resort and Casino in Oranjestad with the

theme "Competing for the Sand Dollar."

The three-day conference is comprised of business meetings, keynote speakers, discussion panels, technical and marketing presentations, and a product expo of the more than 70 companies attending the conference.

The two main speakers are Soccer Analyst and Anchor for ESPN, ESPN 2 and ESPN International, Tommy Smith, and President and CEO of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Rick Waugh.

CCTA's annual meeting is expected to attract nearly 300 professionals in the cable and telecommunication industry, including personnel of Caribbean cable companies, telecommunication operators and representatives of hard- and software manufacturers that support the cable and



telecommunications industry. In January 2010, a total of 351 representatives of 151 companies from 25 countries attended the Caribbean Show which was held in Luquillo, Puerto Rico.

Aruba's National Telecommunications Company, SETAR N.V., is an active member of CCTA and proud to announce that for the third time, Aruba was chosen as venue for this prestigious conference.

For more information regarding the event, readers may contact Executive Director Andrea L. Martin at tel. 1-340-774-9791 or at info@cctanet.com or visit the website www.cctanet.com.

Home & Nature, announced the winners of its December lottery



Home & Nature, situated in the Avenida Milio Croes 70 has announced the winners of its December lottery.

First prize: a gift voucher Home & Nature 500 dollars went to Ms. Lagermann

Second prize a gift voucher worth 250 dollars for Mrs. Ingrid Donata (picture)

and Mrs. Azalee Carter won a voucher for 100 dollars

It is already the ninth year that this popular interior design shop thanks its customers with a pleasant evening with excellent wines and delicious French cheeses.

French and International

songs were featured by well known local singers Arian and Flora de Bie and made the evening a unique experience.

Home & Nature is known for elegant indoor and outdoor furniture made of solid wood, luxurious and affordable by its own direct import.

A unique collection of accessories and art for home, patio and garden offer you opportunities to choose the style that suits you.

The relaxed atmosphere and special ambiance of this store make it one of the most popular lifestyle stores of our island

The Caribbean Cable and Telecommunications Association invites you to the 2011 Annual Meeting!



COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 165

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Not really double trouble, but double fun! Solve this puzzle as you would a regular crossword, EXCEPT place one, two, or three letters in each box. The number of letters in each answer is shown in parentheses after its clue.

ACROSS

1. Pursue (5)
3. Create (7)
8. Contorts (6)
12. Cover (3)
13. Side by side (7)
14. Flamboyant (6)
15. Valise (4)
17. Hollow (4)
18. Century count (7)
19. Everlasting (7)
21. Dance (5)
22. Blood vessel (4)
23. Fraud (4)
24. Extracts (5)
28. Harvest (4)
30. Date (6)
33. Calm (6)
34. Pigment (5)
36. Restricted (7)
38. Merit (4)
39. Go up (6)

41. Auto shelter (6)

43. Dossier (4)
44. Sinew (6)
45. Hint (4)
46. Catch (3)
48. Car (5)
50. Sermonize (6)
53. Income (7)
56. In a little while (4)
58. Rib (5)
59. Agitates (5)
60. Ancestor (7)
62. Ship's wheel (4)
63. Play division (5)
64. Put back to normal (8)
65. Damp (3)

DOWN

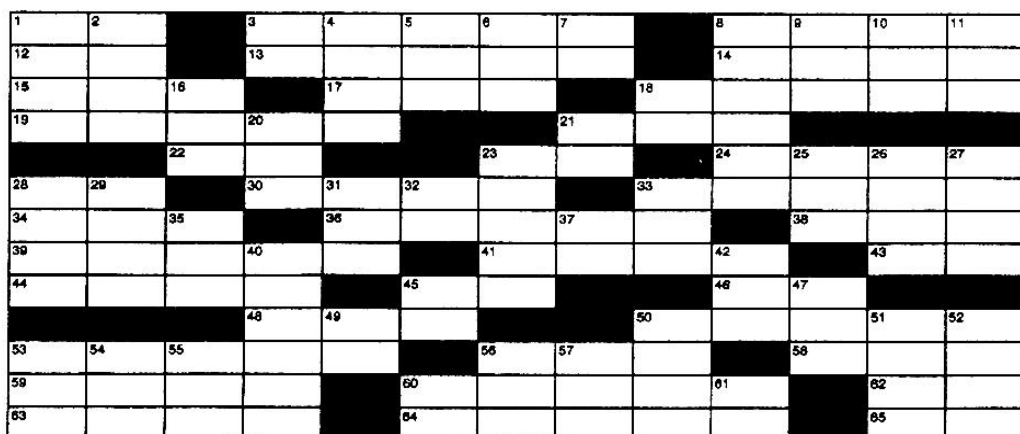
1. Goblet (7)
2. Calm (6)

3. Taxi (3)

4. Hardship (6)
5. Nasty (4)
6. Pillar (4)
7. Collection (3)
8. Dorothy's house-mover (7)
9. Gale (4)
10. Lead performer (4)
11. Horse (5)
16. Wait on (5)
18. Ferrigno's role (4)
20. Baseball-team count (4)
21. Jab (4)
23. Weariness (7)
25. Assess (4)
26. Pier (5)
27. Aged (6)
28. Meal (6)
29. Swiftly (5)
31. Rebuke (5)

32. Edge (3)

33. Pop (4)
35. Propose (6)
37. Rip (4)
40. Bunk! (8)
42. Type (5)
45. Family (4)
47. Subside (5)
49. Payable (3)
50. Think (6)
51. Nut (6)
52. Military hat (6)
53. Relaxes (5)
54. Weakness (4)
55. Sea bird (3)
56. Takes to court (4)
57. Aware of (4)
60. Pro (3)
61. "___ Sky at Morning" (3)



BOTICA

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582-5447
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professional taxi services
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Al Anon Meetings
Mondays 6-7pm
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989



SOLUTION

8	6	3	7	1	2	9	9	2
9	9	7	2	8	3	2	1	6
1	2	2	6	9	9	8	3	7
3	8	9	2	6	7	2	9	1
2	7	6	9	9	1	3	2	8
2	1	9	3	2	8	7	6	9
9	3	1	8	7	9	6	2	2
4	9	2	9	2	6	1	8	3
6	2	8	1	3	2	9	7	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BA-Iberia hit turbulence as merger takes off



LONDON, England (AFP) — A multi-billion-euro merger between British Airways and Iberia of Spain, creating Europe's second biggest airline, was completed week-end, but immediately hit turbulence as BA staff voted to strike.

"The merger has now become effective," BA and Iberia in a statement said as shares in the new company, International Airline Group (IAG), prepare to trade for the first time.

British union Unite later said that BA cabin crew had voted in favour of fresh strikes in a long-running dispute with the airline over pay and other perks, although it did not mention any dates. The vote was part of a dispute that prompted 22 days of strike action last year.

"For the fourth time in 13 months, British Airways cabin crew have voted overwhelmingly in support of their union and expressed their dissatisfaction with management behaviour," said Unite general secretary-designate Len McCluskey.

BA hit back, insisting in a statement that "Unite does not have the support of the majority of our cabin crew."

Under the terms of the merger, BA and Iberia are re-

taining their current operations and individual brands, while British Airways boss Willie Walsh is chief executive of the new group.

Shareholders of both airlines voted in November to approve the merger which values the pair at a combined \$9.6 billion (7.1 billion euros).

British Airways holds 55 percent of IAG, while Iberia has the remaining 45 percent. A merger allows the two carriers to catch up with rivals such as Air France-KLM and Lufthansa, according to analysts.

"In terms of size, BA-Iberia will be the second biggest carrier in Europe and amongst the top ten in the world," said Saj Ahmad, an analyst at consultants FBE Aerospace. "This should deliver many operational economies of scale as the businesses integrate over time and allows BA/Iberia to offer a wider global network for their customers."

BA is set to benefit from Iberia's strong presence in Latin America, while the Spanish airline will gain from the British carrier's strength in North America and Asia.

The tie-up creates Europe's second-biggest airline by market capitalisation after Germany's Lufthansa and will fly about 60 million passengers a year.

Cuba issues thousands of self-employment licenses

CUBA, Havana -- An employee sells products in a religious articles store, in Havana. After Raul Castro government authorized private businesses as part of the economic reform, Cubans are making their debut as small managers, crawling decades of prohibitions.

Communist authorities in Cuba have issued more than 75,000 new self-employment licenses to help offset the layoffs of half a million government workers in the coming months. (AFP PHOTO)



Postcards are wonderful Ads

Postcards are wonderful ads for your business

We all know that direct mail can be a powerful tool in your marketing arsenal, whether your business is large or small. A way to make direct mail even more successful is to put your message on a postcard.

I've used them in various stages of building my companies. Here are a few reasons why I recommend them.

1. They are small enough, that your customers will keep them, especially if you give them a coupon or other discount.

2. They are easy to read. And since they are small in size, you are forced to rework your message, until it will fit in such a small space.

3. There isn't an envelope to come in between you and your message, so your message will be read immediately. You aren't putting the individual in a position to have to open an envelope.

4. Since postage has been increasing over the years, marketing with postcards lowers your cost to reach a prospect or customer. Therefore your ROI is much higher.

5. Here's the best reason. They are personal.

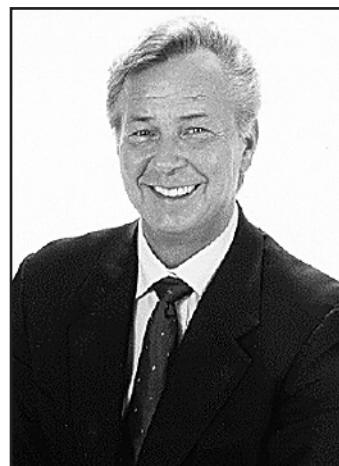
Here are some tips to have a successful Postcard Marketing Program.

1. Make sure that your postcards are being sent to prospects and customers that are likely to be interested in your offer.

2. Create a postcard that looks like a personal message from a friend, instead of like a printed ad.

3. Get to the point to capture the recipients attention immediately.

4. Try not to make it a



sales pitch. Use it to build a relationship with your prospect and/or customer. So don't try to sell them immediately. Offer them something, so that they will respond.

5. Here's something I learned by reading someone's statistics. Send the postcards so they arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday. Why? Because the volume of mail that the post office is delivering those days is lighter and your postcard won't have to compete

with other mail.

6. Always send the cards by First Class mail. If your postcard is 3 1/2 by 5 inches, it costs about half of what a regular first class envelope would cost. If you make your postcard larger, then the cost will be higher. There were times when it was very cost effective for me to send large postcards. I did this to catch my prospect's attention. Sometimes I even created postcards that were not rectangular, but were round, or looked like characters.

Experiment with Postcards. Remember the prime objective is to get the individual to read it and respond to your offer.

To submit questions to Ken, send an email to:

ken@kenvarga.com

To Visit Ken's blog, go to:

www.kenvarga.com/news

To your success,

Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ARAS	TVA	BABE
MOTH	GRAD	SAVER
ABIE	RATE	ANEAR
HOMERUNS	START	
TEPEES	SPIN	
MAL	TEENAGER	
VOTED	RAVES	AMO
ALAN	CAPED	SLID
SEN	FAKIR	STELE
TAKEOVER	SER	
ARES	STEAMS	
BASED	SOURNOTE	
TOTES	STUN	GORE
ABOLT	EAST	ERAL
MOPS	ERE	REDS

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Their vision is to be an enterprise with the leadership in adapted services for Aruba, neighboring islands and other countries in the region. They are oriented to the market with the presence of a special adapted recreation and with a complete portfolio of products and well known brands.

They also want to promote the generation and diffusion of knowledge and awareness in the area of attention to the special community by choosing and training their staff with the goal of reaching the re-

quested profiles, achieving their whole commitment with the values of Adapted Happy Wheels, offering them the best opportunities for their development.

Adapted Happy Wheel's values are:

- * Oriented to the adapted and multiple abilities market.
- * Focused on the results and efficiency.
- * Agility and Flexibility.
- * Teamwork
- * Integrity and public spirit.
- * Mutually beneficial relationships with concerned parties.

* Employed opportunity
Their motto: "Be Happy, Live Free and Enjoy without Limitations"

Adapted Happy Wheels Services and Transportation is located at Palm Beach 472 between Westin Hotel and Divi Phoenix Resort. For more information call cell: 593-0812/568-4787 or just drop in and the Happy Adapted Wheels associates are more than happy to attend you. E-mail: adapted-happywheels@hotmail.com

Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m.

Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellow-pages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry



all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and res-

idents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

Colombia's Botero paints Stations of the Cross

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) — Colombian painter and sculptor Fernando Botero announced Thursday that his new work, Stations of the Cross, is set to be exhibited in New York in November.

Botero, one of Latin America's most famous artists, is known for artwork depicting chubby, puffed up figures.

In the past he has tackled controversial subjects, including drug violence in Colombia and a series on the mistreatment of prisoners in the US-run prison of Abu Ghraib, Iraq.

The Stations of the Cross, or Via Crucis in Latin, depict the final hours of Jesus Christ before his crucifixion and death.

"I read everything on the subject," Botero said. "It will be obviously in my style but done without satire, with great respect."



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Redford opens 'shoestring' Sundance film fest

PARK CITY, Utah (AFP) — Robert Redford launched the annual Sundance film festival, vowing to stick to its modest, "shoestring" roots and reject the commercialism of Hollywood.

The "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" veteran actor, still sporting a full head of blond hair at 74, said nurturing new ideas had always been the aim of the festival -- and always would be with him at the helm. "Keeping a shoestring idea of the festival has become our core. We may be getting bigger, larger, even more successful, but keeping that is part of us," he said at the start of the 10-day festival in the ski resort of Park City, Utah.

"We are doing it the same way we did 25 years ago. Nothing has changed in terms of the programming. We don't program by commerciality, we program for opportunity and for new fresh ideas and more independence in films," he

added.

The 27th Sundance Film Festival opened aiming to defy the economic slowdown by screening a bigger-than-ever selection of independent movies from the United States and around the world.

Founded by Redford as a haven for independent film and an alternative to the Hollywood machine, the festival ironically now attracts huge interest from the commercial industry's scouts, looking for new talent and ideas.

This year's festival will show nearly 120 films from 29 countries, including 95 world premieres and 40 films by first-time directors. A record number of films were submitted for Sundance, which has become the biggest movie festival in the United States.

"The point simply has been to do whatever we can to create opportunities to new artists. That's been our pledge and it's still our pledge," he said.

German tries to cash million-dollar bill



BERLIN, Germany (AFP) — A German pensioner down on his luck has been given a six-month suspended jail sentence for attempting to cash a million-dollar bill at his local bank, a court spokesman said.

Wolfgang U., 65, whose business reportedly ran into difficulties after he became ill, brought the fake note to the bank in Ratingen, western Germany, saying he had received it in return for the sale of a property in Sri Lanka. "He claimed that he just wanted the

bank to check whether the bill was real but bank employees testified that he wanted to have the money credited to his account," Stefan Coners, a spokesman for the court in Duesseldorf, told AFP. The US Treasury Department does not print a million-dollar bill.

The man was convicted of attempting to bring counterfeit money into circulation and of attempted fraud. He was also told to pay 1,000 euros (1,345 dollars) to a children's charity.

Warner Music seeking buyers, wants EMI: report

NEW YORK (AFP) — Major US record company Warner Music has hired investment bank Goldman Sachs to search for potential buyers as it pursues a bid for Britain's troubled EMI, The New York Times reported.

Warner, whose catalog of artists includes Frank Sinatra, the Bee Gees, The Doors, Youssou N'Dour, REM and Green Day, decided to hire Goldman after buyout firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) and others sought to



buy the firm, the Times said, citing an executive briefed on the matter.

The newspaper said the

auction could see Warner sell only its prized publishing branch Warner/Chappell, rather than the entire company.

A separate team of bankers at Goldman has also been working on Warner's potential acquisition of EMI, according to the Times. The bank has namely been in touch with Citigroup, which owns much of EMI's debt and could soon control the company if it does not make its payments.

Film on Jewish kids' rescue from 1939 Prague to hit cinemas

PRAGUE, The Czech Republic (AFP) — A documentary on the rescue of 669 Jewish children from pre-war Czechoslovakia by a British man dubbed the "English Schindler" premiered in Prague before hitting cinemas on February 3.

The premiere of "Nicky's Family" was attended by the 101-year-old Sir Nicholas Winton, who arranged for the children to be hosted by British families and negotiated their departure with the occupying Nazi Germans between March and September 1939.

"It gives an indication to the future. I don't think it helps to look in the past," Winton said about his story to a hall full of young people taking part in an educational project inspired by the rescue and spanning 17 countries.

Winton has been called the "English Schindler," in reference to Oskar Schindler, whose rescue of hundreds of Jews in wartime Poland was immortalised in Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List."

Winton's story only came to light by chance 50 years later when his wife found papers relating to it in a battered briefcase in his attic. Over 100,000 Czech children have signed a petition for Winton to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

"The story has an immense energy. When we travelled the world, we could see how it is passed on to the young generation which asks what it can do to make the world different," said film producer Patrik Pass.

The filmmakers produced 500 hours of film material and visited 20 countries to talk to the "Winton children," some of whom attended the premiere in Prague. Up to now, 261 of the 669 have been traced.

"Many of the Winton children who are alive do not know the story. We're looking for them," said the film's Slo-



Sir Nicholas Winton, the "English Schindler" reunites with the survivors of the Holocaust which he helped to escape

vak director Matej Minac, whose documentary "Nicholas Winton - The Power of Good" won the International Emmy Award in 2002.

In one scene -- one of a few using actors to illustrate the atmosphere -- a mother has to decide whether to leave a weeping child on the train or whether to take her back home.

"We met a woman, a Winton child, in Washington, and she said it was her sister's story... it was like 'Sophie's Choice'," said Minac, referring to the William Styron novel set

during the Holocaust.

And, recalling a moment from the shooting, he added: "Everybody was moved, everybody started to cry, and I could suddenly see the scene had mystically returned, because this is what it must have been like on the platform all those 70 years ago."

Nazi Germany seized former Czechoslovakia in March 1939, less than six months after having carved off a swathe of its territory, and six months before the outbreak of World War II.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Williams in shock Australian pull-out

MELBOURNE (AFP) - American star Venus Williams dramatically pulled out of the Australian Open with a painful injury on Friday, as Justine Henin also crashed and Roger Federer got his title defence back on track.

Men's third seed Novak Djokovic, women's number one Caroline Wozniacki and Russia's Maria Sharapova also reached the last 16 as temperatures soared at Melbourne Park.

But Williams' injury robbed the tournament of one of its biggest stars. Just minutes into her third-round clash with Andrea Petkovic, Williams screamed in pain and limped to her chair before conceding defeat.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion, 30, had needed treatment for a strained psoas muscle, which runs from the abdomen to the groin, during her previous match with Sandra Zahlavova.

"It's super-disappointing because this is just not how I envisioned my Australian Open being," Williams told reporters.

"(I was) just hoping for some magic that I could recover. But I have peace of mind that I really gave more than my best to be out there."

Williams, playing her first tournament since the US Open after struggling with a knee injury, had never retired in 250 previous Grand Slam matches.

It is the first time in the Open era that no American woman has reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam.

Earlier Federer worked out the frustrations of his five-set rollercoaster against Gilles Simon by handing a 6-



Venus Williams is seen leaving the court after retiring hurt

3, 6-3, 6-1 beating to ponytailed Belgian Xavier Malisse, whom he has known since his junior days.

In the process he broke Stefan Edberg's record for the most Australian Open victories in the Open era and took an important step towards a fifth title -- and the chance to deny Rafael Nadal a sweep of the Grand Slam crowns.

"It's very nice to take the record but Edberg still stays my idol," Federer told the crowd at Rod Laver Arena.

As temperatures rose past 32 deg C (90 F) on the tournament's hottest day so far, 2004 winner Henin was floored by Russia's Svetlana

Kuznetsova, who held her nerve in a gripping tiebreak to win 6-4, 7-6 (10/8).

The seven-time Grand Slam winner, 28, has been struggling with an elbow injury after ending a brief retirement last year, and has not performed so badly at a major since Wimbledon in 2006.

"I decided to play not being 100 percent. It's been difficult in the last three days on my elbow and I just did everything that I could to make it okay, but it wasn't enough," Henin said.

Djokovic's quest to break Nadal and Federer's Grand Slam stranglehold received a helping hand when fellow Serb Viktor Troicki retired hurt after

going a set down.

After Juan Martin del Potro's demise late Thursday, third seed Djokovic is the only player left in Melbourne, other than Nadal and Federer, to have won a Grand Slam since 2006.

Meanwhile, Wozniacki took revenge on Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova, whose shock victory at last week's Sydney International raised new questions about the Dane's credibility as world number one.

Afterwards, the 20-year-old Dane turned on journalists who accused her of giving boring press conferences.

"Yesterday (I was told) my press conferences were kind

of boring, that I always gave the same answers," she said.

"I find it quite funny because I always get the same questions. I know what you're going to ask me already, so I'm just going to start with the answers."

Wozniacki then stunned media by rattling off a monologue answering the predictable questions she knew she would face.

French Open champion Francesca Schiavone eased past Monica Niculescu 6-0, 7-6 (7/2) and Latvian Anastasiya Sevastova beat Russian Vesna Manasieva 6-1, 6-3 to set up a last-16 meeting with Wozniacki.

Sharapova fought back from a set down before subduing Germany's Julia Gerges 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, while China's Li Na downed Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-2, 6-1 to revive memories of her run to last year's semi-finals.

Meanwhile Andy Roddick came from behind to see off Dutchman Robin Haase 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2, 6-2, and Swiss number two Stanislas Wawrinka beat French 12th seed Gael Monfils 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-3.

Spain's Fernando Verdasco ended Japanese hopes with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 victory over rising star Kei Nishikori.

Prosecutors say Clemens lawyer has conflict Origin

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Federal prosecutors filed a motion Friday to keep the attorney for Major League Baseball pitcher Roger Clemens from cross-examining former Clemens teammate Andy Pettitte in a trial set for July.

Clemens faces charges of lying under oath to Congress in 2008 when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs and prosecutors plan to bring Pettitte to the stand.

Prosecutors claim Rusty Hardin has a conflict of interest in asking questions to Pettitte because he advised Pettitte in December of 2007 just before the release of an investigation into doping by major league players.

They want another attorney for Clemens to cross-examine Pettitte to avoid the conflict but seek a hearing on the issue.

A pre-trial hearing is already set for March 14 at the request of Hardin, who said he needed extra time to sort through two years of investigative material involving Clemens. Hardin had sought a delay in the trial until September but jury selection is now scheduled for July 6.

While Clemens has denied any wrongdoing, Pettitte admitted using human growth hormone and told lawmakers that Clemens admitted doing so as well. Clemens said Pettitte "misremembers" the conversation.

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Packers' destiny rests with Rodgers

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — It has been an uphill struggle to get to this point in his career, but Aaron Rodgers is making a believer out of those who wondered if he would ever become among the NFL's elite quarterbacks.

One of the biggest signs that Rodgers has finally arrived is that he has made Brett Favre an afterthought in Green Bay.

Heading into Sunday's National Football Conference championship game against the Chicago Bears, there is no doubt Rodgers is in charge and the Packers' hopes of getting to their first Super Bowl in 13 years rests in his hands.

"He has definitely developed into a special player," said Packers coach Mike McCarthy.

"He does it the right way. He'll break them down physically, mentally. He's in a great rhythm right now."

The other semi-final on Sunday features the Pittsburgh Steelers hosting the New York Jets in the AFC championship game.

Rodgers was selected by Green Bay in the first round (24th overall) in the 2005 entry draft.

This is the first year since



the NFL-AFL merger in 1970 that all four starting quarterbacks in the semi-finals were first-round draft picks.

Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (No. 11 in 2004), New York Jets' Mark Sanchez (No. 5 in 2009) and Chicago's Jay Cutler (No. 11 in 2006) all went in the first round.

Rodgers has thrown seven touchdowns in six career starts against the Bears.

He threw three touchdown passes and went 31-of-36 for 366 yards in a 48-21 win over No. 1 seed Atlanta on Saturday.

Rodgers is in his third season as the Packers starting quarterback. He certainly has the support of his teammates.

"I love him," said Packers wide receiver Donald Driver said. "I don't know if you can put words to it but he's playing like one of the best quarterbacks in the game, if not the best."

Bears quarterback Cutler is no slouch either.

Cutler threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more in last week's 35-24 win over Seattle. He finished with 274 yards passing and became the first quarterback since Otto Graham to rush and throw for two touchdowns in a playoff game.

The two teams share one of the NFL's longest standing rivalries dating back to 1921. This will be the 182nd career meeting between the Bears and Packers.

"You just look at our history and it does have a respectful tone, but it can be nasty also," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "It's going to be a physical game. We don't like each other."

"Believe me, there is not a whole lot of love for us coming (from the Packers)."

The sixth-seeded Jets barreled their way through a pair of brilliant quarterbacks in Peyton Manning and Tom Brady to get to their second consecutive AFC championship game.

Now Roethlisberger is the biggest obstacle in the way of their trip to the Super Bowl.

"Big Ben, he's next on our

list," Jets player Braylon Edwards said.

The Steelers are headed to their fourth AFC championship game in seven years.

"(Ben) may not be Brady or all those other guys, but when I see him in the huddle I know we've got a chance to win," receiver Hines Ward said. "He's a proven winner."

Said Roethlisberger of the Jets, "They're a really good defense. They try and confuse. That's the big thing they do. ... You don't know where people are lining up and how to identify them."


"The Jets' defense beat the

two best quarterbacks in the game at their place. I don't know how I'm going to do it."

One Jet who may be more motivated than most Sunday is wide receiver Santonio Holmes, a former Super Bowl MVP who the Steelers traded for a fifth-round pick in April.

Holmes said he harbors no hard feelings towards the Steelers.

"I don't care about the Steelers right now," Holmes said. "If we win the Super Bowl, that's a slap back for trading me. But right now it's not a focus of mine."



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Bryant to be first athlete with Hollywood star

HOLLYWOOD, California (AFP) – Kobe Bryant will become the first athlete to have his foot and hand prints placed in the cement outside Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

The honour, usually reserved for Hollywood's brightest and most glamorous film stars, is another feather in the cap of the 12-time all-star Bryant who has five NBA championship rings and an Olympic gold medal.

The Los Angeles Lakers star guard Bryant, who wears

a size 14 (European 48) shoe, joins such celebrities as John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe and Brad Pitt who have had their hands and feet set in cement in front of the luxury Hollywood movie theater.

Bryant will have his hands and feet set during a ceremony February 19 which will coincide with the National Basketball Association's all-star weekend festivities.

The annual NBA all-star game will take place February 20 at Staples Center Arena.

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Fired nurse sues over Tiger records claim: report

ORLANDO (AFP) - A nurse fired for allegedly looking at the medical records of Tiger Woods is suing for defamation and says he never saw the golf star's files, the Orlando Sentinel reported Friday.

David Rothenberg seeks 400,000 dollars in damages plus reinstatement and a letter of explanation from officials at Health Central, the hospital where Woods was taken after a November 2009 car crash that spawned his sex scandal.

Woods was treated for several hours at the hospital after an early morning crash near his home, which led to revelations of affairs with multiple women, an eventual divorce from wife Elin Nordegren and a five-month hiatus from golf before a winless 2010 season.

Hospital officials fired Rothenberg in December of 2009 for looking at the record of Woods three times within 10 minutes on his computer, according to the lawsuit filed Friday.

Woods used the aliases

Ernest Smith and Ronald Williams while at Health Central, according to the lawsuit.

Rothenberg, who faces the loss of his nursing license, accused the hospital of defamation and conspiracy to defame plus violating polygraph procedures and causing harm to his reputation.

"My client wants to clear his name more than anything

else," said Michael Gort, Rothenberg's attorney.

Rothenberg argues the evidence against him was circumstantial and that he left his computer terminal unattended and someone else logged in to peep at the golf star's medical records.

"The biggest problem here is that the hospital did not secure its patient-care system," Gort said.

Angry Federer warns against match-fixing

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Swiss tennis great Roger Federer Friday warned players not to get involved in match-fixing, as Italian media reported a new investigation.

The world number two said match-fixers angered him as much as dope cheats, as they threatened the sport's integrity and could turn off fans.

"I think it's just unacceptable when athletes, players, whatever you want to call it,

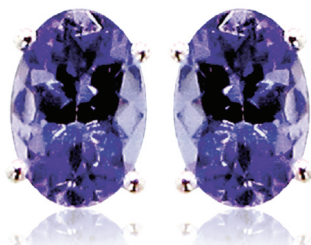
try to do things like this or play with the integrity of the sport," he said.

"I don't know if I get more angry or disappointed. It's just a pity to a game that has given us everything. Why would you want to play with that?"

"You're not only taking a chance for yourself, but for so many other players to harm the sport. That's why it's disappointing to hear those kind of things."

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